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BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITIONS of the URBAN
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

FOR THE YEAR

1953

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BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1953).

Alderman T. Colledge (Chairman).

Councillor J. W. Bluff.	Councillor W. B. Revill.
Councillor Mrs. J. Colledge.	Councillor J. W. Savage.
Councillor F. Cross.	Councillor M. W. Simpson,
Councillor G. Fisher.	B.E.M.
Councillor S. T. Fisher, J.P.	Councillor J. Spray.
Councillor S. Jennings.	Councillor Mrs. E. M. Spray, B.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.
Dale Close, 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Tel. : Mansfield 811).

Deputy Medical Officer (Part-time) :

DR. J. B. McKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

(Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and Inspector
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts) :

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Tel. : Bolsover 3255/6)
Council Offices.

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1953.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough the health of the district has been satisfactory.

At the end of the year the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order was applied to this district and it has now become illegal to sell raw milk. This ensues that the milk supply for the population of Bolsover is clean and safe. It is an important step forward in the selling of such an easily contaminated food and prevents the spread of non-pulmonary tuberculosis which causes so much suffering in children.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the co-operation of the staff and I wish to express my appreciation of the continual help and support which you have yourselves given throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

“ Dale Close,”

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	4,526
Population (census), 1931	..	..	..	..	..	10,850
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1953	..	..	..	..	..	10,850
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	..	..	..	..	..	3,128
Rateable Value, 1953	..	..	..	..	..	£54,720
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1953	..	..	..	..	..	£205

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the district are coal mining and agriculture. There has been very little unemployment.

There are a considerable number of substandard houses in the area but it is hoped to deal with them in the very near future under the new Slum Clearance Act.

SCABIES.

Three cases (one adult and two children) were sent to the Disinfestation Centre for treatment.

VERMINOUS HEADS.

No treatments had to be carried out at the Poolsbrook Centre. The standard of cleanliness among school girls of recent years has shown a most satisfactory improvement.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	191	95	96	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.6 (crude).
Illegitimate	11	5	6	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	202	100	102	

Corrected birthrate 19.1.

Still Births	5	3	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 22.0.
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DEATHS.

Total	Males	Females	
94	47	47	} Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8.6 (crude).

Death rate corrected by comparability factor 10.1.

There have not been any deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births 14.8

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 5.2

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 181.0

The infantile death-rate for Bolsover is very satisfactory and compares favourably with England and Wales. Only three children in this area died under one year of age, their deaths were caused by congenital malformation, bronchitis and premature birth respectively.

Of the 94 persons who died in the Bolsover Urban District during the year 52 lived to over 70 years of age and out of these 16 (11 females and 5 males) died when over 80 years of age and 3 (all women) lived to be over 90 years.

DEATHS FROM :—

Coronorary thrombosis	..	..	..	6
Pneumonia	..	..	..	4
Influenza	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1
Cancer	..	..	..	17
Diabetes	..	..	..	2
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—

VIOLENT DEATHS :—

6 persons were killed in a motor car accident on the Shuttlewood Road, Bolsover, in August. All the occupants of the car came from Sheffield.

A boy of 15 died from inhalation of a cough medicine.

Another accidental death was caused by a fall of roof at a Colliery.

SUICIDES :—

Two occurred in the district, one by coal gas poisoning, and the other by a gun shot wound in the head.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1953

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population						Rate per 1,000 Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.16	26.8
160 County Boroughs and great Towns, including London ..	17.1	0.43	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.15	30.8
160 Smaller Towns (1931 ad- justed) Population 25,000— 50,000	15.7	0.34	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	24.3
London	17.5	0.38	12.5	—	—	0.00	—	0.15	24.8
Bolsover U.D.	19.1	0.44	10.1	—	—	0.00	—	0.09	14.8

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
C. diphtheriæ	—	4	4
Vincent's Angina Organisms ..	—	3	3
Hæmolytic Streptococci ..	1	5	6
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ..	—	2	2
*Water	3	19	22
*Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test	—	23	23

MILK.

Methylene Blue	—	—	—
*Phosphatase Test	—	1	1
*Turbidity Test	—	—	—
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test	—	47	47
Clinical Specimens	2	9	11
	—	—	—
Totals	6	113	119
	—	—	—

*Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities in the Area.

The Bolsover Ambulance Station provided a service for the whole of the Urban District during the day-time. For cases during night-time, the ambulances at Chesterfield Station were available.

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

All these clinics are under the control of the County Council. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every week on a Wednesday afternoon in Bolsover.

A School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments is held fortnightly on Saturday in the same place.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Tuesday and Friday, from 10 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Venereal Clinics.

Chesterfield Royal Hospital—

Males— Friday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Tuesdays, 5 to 6-45 p.m.

Females— Tuesday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Friday, 5 to 6-30 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board and is satisfactory in quality. All the houses in the district are supplied direct from the town's mains.

The water is chlorinated before use and 0.15 parts per million of chlorine is added. The Chlorinating plant is installed at the Hillstown water tower.

The water is obtained from (1) Bolsover Moor P.S., (2) Carr Vale P.S. and (3) the Meden Valley. I understand from Mr. Boothman, the Water Engineer, that the base exchange softened water from Bolsover Moor tends to be slightly plumbo-solvent on new pipes ; the other supplies are not.

The following are analyses of the raw water from Bolsover Moor and Carr Vale.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water.

From Bolsover P.S. (Raw). Sample taken on 18th June, 1953.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Agar plate counts per 1 ml.				
2 days at 37°C. . . . .	..	..	..	0
3 days at 20°C. . . . .	..	..	..	0
Coliform counts per 100 ml.				
2 days at 37°C. . . . .	..	..	..	0
Bact. Coli type 1 (44°C)	..	..	..	0

PHYSICAL AND PHYSICO-CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

Appearance—Clear.
Taste—Normal.
Electrical Conductivity—740 units.
Odour—Nil.
pH.—7.3.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (Expressed in Parts per million).

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	256
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	188
Total Hardness (CaCO_3)	.. ..	444
Total alkalinity (CaCO_3)	.. ..	256
Chlorides (Cl.)	.. ..	29.5
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	.. ..	6.0
Sulphates (SO_4)	.. ..	135.3
Calcium (Ca)	.. ..	95.7
Magnesium (Mg)	.. ..	49.8
Sodium (Na)	.. ..	9.9
Silica (SiO_2)	.. ..	4.0
Total Solid Residue (180°C})	.. ..	533

RESIDUAL CHLORINE.

Free—Nil p.p.m. Combined—Nil p.p.m.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water

From Carr Vale P.S. (Raw).

Sample taken on 10th September, 1953.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Agar plate counts per 1 ml.		
2 days at 37°C}.	.. ..	104
3 days at 20°C}.	.. ..	444
Coliform counts per 100 ml.		
2 days at 37°C}.	.. ..	9
Bact. Coli type 1 (44°C})	.. ..	9

PHYSICAL AND PHYSICO-CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

Appearance—F. Clear, T.S.M.

Electrical Conductivity—750 units.

Odour—Nil.

pH.—7.8

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (Expressed in Parts per million).

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	264
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	188
Total Hardness (CaCO_3)	.. ..	452
Total Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	.. ..	264
Chlorides (Cl)	.. ..	29.0

RESIDUAL CHLORINE.

Free—Nil p.p.m. Combined—Nil p.p.m.

Remarks.—Bact. Coli type 1 present.

Closet Conversions.

There are 3,128 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system.

Pail closets and Elsan	..	..	69
Privies	..	..	8
Cesspools..	..	..	30

A further report under this heading will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

As stated in my last report, complaints have been received by the Health Department of a nuisance arising in Moor Lane due to flooding by sewage after moderately heavy rainfalls. The sewage floods into the houses and bungalows and on to the gardens on the south side of the lane.

The main post-war housing development of the Council has been carried out in the Moor Lane area and the main sewer from the new estate joins the 9-inch sewer in Moor Lane at the junction with Moorfield Avenue. As all the houses are on the combined system of drainage the sewer along Moor Lane becomes overloaded after moderate rainfall, sometimes flooding the carriage way for a distance of 300 yards and in certain instances, penetrating under the floors of the more low lying houses and flooding the gardens with faecal matter.

In my opinion the nuisance is a very serious one and as it is proposed that further mining of coal shall be carried out in 1954 in this area a very dangerous situation may arise unless something is done to overcome the nuisance.

To combat this a scheme has been prepared in two parts and has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and an Enquiry with regard to the first section was held in November in the Bolsover Council Offices. Up to the present time (December, 1953) no decision has yet been received from the Ministry.

The first stage will consist of about 500 yards of new sewer and a sewage pumping station, which it is proposed will be ultimately superseded by a new sewage treatment works to be constructed in the second stage together with a new outfall sewer.

Shuttlewood and Stanfree Sewage Works.

A scheme has been prepared for improvements to the Council's sewage treatment works at Shuttlewood and Stanfree and it is proposed to carry out these improvements during the forthcoming year.

HOUSING.

During the year 4 houses were built by the Council and 7 by private individuals. In addition to these, one house, which had been the subject of an undertaking under Section 11 of the Housing Act, was thoroughly repaired, modernised and became occupied.

A start has been made on the erection of 436 houses (254 by the N.C.B. and 182 by the Council) on the Castle Estate site. The completion of this development in Bolsover should greatly reduce overcrowdings and allow clearance areas to be made of a large number of insanitary and worn out houses.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the district, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

1.—Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	40	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	57	3
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises)	6	16	2
Total	34	113	9

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences.				
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork ..	—	—	—	—
	9	8	nil	nil

3.—Outwork.

Nature of Work.	No. of Outworkers.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Lace, lace curtains and nets	5	nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Meat and Other Foods.

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Urgent Sanitary Requirements.

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The demolition of unfit houses and rehousing the inhabitants.

National Assistance Act.

No action was taken in 1953 to remove old persons to hospital under this act, although owing to the ageing of the population the problem of the care of old people becomes more and more difficult every year.

At the present time in England and Wales 14.1% of the population are old and it is estimated this figure will have risen to 19.2 by 1989.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1953.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.													Total cases rem'd to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At Ages—years.														
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up		
Acute Poliomyelitis	
Diphtheria	
Erysipelas	
Scarlet Fever	
Malaria	
Enteric Fever	
Encephalitis Lethargica	
Puerperal Pyrexia	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	
Pneumonia	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
Dysentery	
Measles	
Whooping Cough	
	358	22	36	31	66	42	150	4	1	3	3	5	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

No notifications of this disease were received.

The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria in this district since 1944.

Year	Cases	Year	Cases
1944	Nil	1949	Nil
1945	Nil	1950	Nil
1946	Nil	1951	Nil
1947	Nil	1952	Nil
1948	1	1953	Nil

It is very important that there should be no lessening of the immunisation campaign. Owing to the absence of diphtheria some parents are inclined to allow their children to be unprotected by immunisation. If they continue to take this attitude there may easily be a return of the disease. If non immunised children catch diphtheria their chances of dying are seven times greater than those of an immunised child.

School children can be immunised at school, and infants either by their own doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinics. In 1953 24 school children and 87 infants were injected for the first time. In addition a large number of booster doses were carried out on school children.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 8 cases were notified compared with 33 last year. The cases were mild and there were no deaths. The schools are undoubtedly the chief channel through which the disease is spread.

Measles.

This disease was very prevalent during the first half of the year. It was mild in character, there were few complications and no deaths. 273 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough.

94 notifications were received, the majority of the cases were under school age.

Food Poisoning.

On the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 10th, a man visited his daughter's house in Carr Vale, Bolsover, where he was given a piece of beef by a neighbour. This neighbour and his family had already eaten some of the meat at three separate meals. The meat had been delivered to them by the butcher on the previous Saturday.

Upon receiving the meat the man wrapped it in wax paper and left it on the table in the kitchen. Four hours later he ate a meat sandwich and gave a boy living in the same house a sandwich also. This boy became acutely ill with food poisoning three hours later.

On the following day (5 days after the original cooking) the man gave the meat to two men who also became ill.

The illness of the three persons affected was of short duration.

Specimens of the meat and also of faeces from the patients were examined in the laboratory and staphylococcus aureus were isolated. The man who gave the meat to the three persons had a septic sore on his hand and this caused the infection of the meat and the illness of the three persons.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
10 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55 ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	..

The phthisis death rate was 0.09 for 1,000 of population in 1953. A remarkably low level.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For the year ended 31st December, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report refers to the start made on the erection of 436 houses on the Castle Estate site ; the completion of this development should very materially reduce the housing problem in this district.

Since the end of the war the nation's efforts in the field of housing have very largely been concentrated on the construction of new houses for those many thousands of young married couples who have not had the opportunity of enjoying life in a home of their own, and the progress made in that direction has now allowed acceptance of a broader view of the housing problem. This new outlook is welcomed most enthusiastically. I have long held the view that our housing difficulties could not be overcome by the building of new houses alone, and it is right and proper that increased attention should be paid to our middle-aged houses and to those old insanitary houses which have remained occupied long after they became unfit for habitation. It has been said that the concentration of the building resources on new development and the control of rents at their pre-war level allowed old houses to fall into decay at an alarming rate.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill now before Parliament is designed to induce property owners to take a greater interest in their houses, by allowing an increase in rent to meet the higher cost of repairs and by encouraging schemes of improvement and modernisation. It is gratifying to note that the Council are anxious to encourage improvement schemes and it is earnestly hoped that landlords will adopt a progressive attitude and submit proposals designed to bring suitable houses up to the new standard. A modern approach is required : no longer is it sufficient to maintain houses in

their present condition, rather should the emphasis be on the provision of amenities and conveniences not at present available to the occupants. It should be apparent to all that houses which lack modern services are no longer desirable residences and that as they steadily fall behind modern standards the owners become increasingly reluctant to maintain them properly and they are then a long way on the road to becoming slums.

I have no wish to dwell on housing finance and the assistance available for improvement schemes, but it must be obvious that the charge to rates and taxes is much lower than the burden imposed by Council house building, and a policy of making the older houses more comfortable will greatly increase the happiness and well-being of the community.

I look forward to an early start on slum clearance work and to the time when the many old insanitary houses are no longer with us.

Once again a fair volume of repair work was carried out to houses in the district and it is to be expected that this matter will receive increased attention in the future.

As from the 1st January, 1954, the sale of non-designated milk became illegal in this district, but before the Order came into force practically every family was in the habit of purchasing Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested milk.

The report outlines the difficulties experienced in the recruitment of suitable workmen for public cleansing duties and details are given of the continued success of the waste paper salvage undertaking.

I should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the help and encouragement that I have at all times received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee ; I am also greatly indebted to my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

*Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

General Inspection of the Area.

Tables showing inspections, etc. undertaken during the year 1953.

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects	..	695
Revisits to houses	.. .. .	923
Visits re Water Supply	.. .. .	10
Visits to Infectious Disease cases	.. .. .	33
Verminous Premises	.. .. .	4
Milk Distributors and Dairies	.. .. .	118
Bakehouses	.. .. .	16
Fried Fish Shops	.. .. .	39
Other Food Preparing Premises	.. .. .	62
Food Shops	.. .. .	169
Market Stalls	.. .. .	104
Ice Cream Premises	.. .. .	89
Inns and other Public Buildings	.. .. .	13
Factories	.. .. .	113
Knacker's Yard	.. .. .	38
Schools	.. .. .	4
Controlled Refuse Tips	.. .. .	143
Colliery Spoil Banks	.. .. .	8
Moveable Dwellings	.. .. .	56
re Keeping of Animals	.. .. .	19
Shops Act	.. .. .	93
Petroleum Licensing	.. .. .	39
Rodent Control Measures	.. .. .	847
Drainage Work	.. .. .	236
to Public Baths	.. .. .	12
Number of miscellaneous visits	.. .. .	9
Interviews with owners and contractors, etc.	.. .. .	219
		<hr/>
		4111
		<hr/>

Housing and Public Health Act Defects.

The following statement shows the defects found and remedied, other than those at Council owned houses :—

Defects in connection with :—

	Found	Remedied
House Roofs	94	87
Chimney Stacks	12	11
Eaves Gutters	81	80
Rain Water Pipes	72	69
Pointing and Brickwork of Walls	39	34
Yard Paving	9	9
Waste Pipes	19	19
Wall Plaster	89	73
Ceiling Plaster	74	69
Windows and Sash Cords ..	34	32
Doors	11	10
Floors	41	37
Staircases	5	4
Cooking Ranges	39	30
Firegrates	12	11
Sinks	27	21
Washing Coppers	31	27
Rising & Penetrating Dampness	68	57
Coal Stores	13	10
Verminous Premises	1	1
Dirty Houses	5	3
Accumulations	4	4
Drains	65	62
Inspection Chambers	11	11
Closet Pedestals	36	34
Closet Flushing Cisterns ..	78	64
Closet Structures	14	10
Closet Pails	5	5
Urinals	2	2
Dilapidated Dustbins	163	159
Choked Drains	271	271
	<hr/> 1425	<hr/> 1316

In connection with the foregoing defects 294 informal notices and 34 statutory notices were served on owners or occupiers.

Of the statutory notices served, 4 required the abatement of nuisances at dwelling houses, 26 called for the provision of new dustbins, 2 dealt with defective closets, 1 was served

under Section 56 of the Public Health Act in respect of the paving of a common yard and 3 were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act.

During 1953 one owner successfully appealed against notices requiring the provision of dustbins at two houses, and the dustbins were eventually provided by the occupiers after service of further legal notices.

In 4 cases, dustbins were supplied by the local authority in default of legal notice.

Housing.

During 1953, 4 houses were built by the Council and 7 by private individuals (including 3 resulting from extension or alteration of existing houses or buildings). In addition, one house No. 71, High Street, Bolsover, which had previously been the subject of an undertaking under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, was thoroughly repaired and modernised and again became occupied.

In January, 1953, one house—11, Cotton Street, Bolsover—was the subject of a closing order and the tenant was rehoused about a month later in a Council house.

The four houses erected by the local authority represented the completion of the Moor Lane Housing Estate, being built on a plot of land on the estate which had previously been reserved for another purpose.

I referred in my last year's report to the proposed development of the Castle Estate to be undertaken jointly by the Council and the Coal Industry Housing Association, providing a total of 436 houses. The work on the site was commenced during 1953 and although no houses were completed during the year, a considerable amount of work was done. At the time of writing this report (April, 1954) the first 8 houses have been completed and occupied and it is expected that there will now be a steady flow of new houses for the next 18 months or so.

Reports for the past 8 or 9 years have emphasised the policy of retaining old and unfit houses in occupation for as long as possible, to enable progress to be made in providing homes for young married couples living in rooms and to assist in the relief of overcrowding. It is now possible to take a broader view of the housing problem and towards the end of 1953 the Council considered detailed reports concerning re-commencement of slum clearance and the improvement, with grant assistance, of existing houses.

A survey of the unfit houses in the area was carried out several years ago and it was found that 184 houses were at that time unfit for habitation. A suggested initial clearance programme dealing with 67 occupied and 8 unoccupied houses was presented to the Council in December, 1953, and it is hoped that removal of these dilapidated dwellings will henceforth form an integral part of the authority's housing programme so that all may be demolished during the next 4 or 5 years.

Attention is now being focussed on the improvement of the many middle aged houses which though soundly constructed lack hot water, baths and the modern amenities and conveniences which are now regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life. In reporting to the Council on the question of improvement grants, it was pointed out that of the 3,117 houses in the district, 1,570 were modern houses complying with the suggested standard and a further 800 could readily be improved to comply with the standard.

It was felt that by providing modern amenities and conveniences in these older houses the tenants could be made more comfortable in their homes and that this work could be carried out at a fraction of the cost of providing new houses. From the agricultural and food production standpoint the acreage of our land is dwindling year after year as a result of new building, and the need to maintain and modernise many of the existing houses presents a serious challenge to local authorities throughout the country.

The Council whole-heartedly supported the proposal to encourage improvement of suitable existing houses, by publicising the financial assistance available and by calling together the owners of certain blocks of property to encourage them to consider the improvement of their houses. Unfortunately, this plan could not be put into immediate operation due to the Government's proposals to introduce certain amending legislation, but as soon as the time is opportune, every encouragement will be given to property owners to avail themselves of improvement grants. Some little progress was made with regard to owner-occupiers of houses and by the end of the year nine such persons were preparing schemes for the modernisation of their homes.

It is hoped that the owners of property will be anxious to co-operate in this new policy of improvement but it is known that some interested persons still feel that the increased return (now 8%) on this outlay is not sufficiently attractive.

For many years we, as a nation, have striven to improve working conditions in our factories and workplaces and it is fitting that at last an attempt be made to improve working conditions for the housewives in the homes by providing modern amenities and conveniences in many of those houses where they do not now exist.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During 1953 there was again an increase in the number of caravans used for human habitation, 20 being in use at the end of the year.

In last year's report I referred to the plan to develop a municipal caravan site at Limekiln Fields, and tenders were obtained for the execution of this work. It was found that the prices received would necessitate charging a higher rent than had originally been estimated and opposition was experienced from some of the caravan dwellers who had applied for plots on the proposed site. The Council reconsidered this matter and a revised plan was prepared with the object of reducing the cost of development and the resultant rent to be charged.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Particulars will be found in the Medical Officer's report of the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. 33 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred and 41 books were disinfected on behalf of the Bolsover Branch of the County Library.

Of the 8 scarlet fever cases notified, 5 of the patients were removed to hospital and 3 were nursed at home.

During the year the Council's disinfecting station continued to be available, if required, for the disinfection of blankets, etc., used by the County Ambulance Service for the removal of infectious cases to hospital.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One Council owned house was disinfected during the year.

There was again very little evidence of bedbug infestation of houses in the district ; though a number of tenants ex-

perienced trouble from cockroaches and silverfish. The almost complete absence of bedbug infestation pays tribute to the cleanly habits of the vast majority of householders, and especially the housewives throughout the district.

D.D.T. powder, Gammexane dust, liquid disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution continued to be available to householders free of charge.

WATER SUPPLY.

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board. Nine samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be fit for drinking purposes.

In addition one sample was collected for chemical analysis following complaint from a householder, but a satisfactory result was received.

PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD.

During 1953, 166 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food—these comprising 2 bakehouses, 10 fish frying premises, 3 ice cream manufacturers, 1 jam and canning factory, 8 manufacturers of sausages, etc. and 3 small cafes. With the exception of the bakehouses and cafes all the above premises are registered under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

431 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls, including 23 shops registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

Apart from 10 fish and chip shops, there are 83 shop premises selling food, 3 being bakers and confectioners, 10 concentrating on the sale of fruit and vegetables, 11 predominantly grocers, 10 butchers, 1 dealing in made up meat products and 48 general dealers. The vast majority are house and shop premises of restricted size where the hygienic storage and display of foods of differing types presents a problem.

There was no case of food poisoning resulting from food manufactured or processed in the district and every effort has been made to impress on traders the importance of strict cleanliness in all aspects of food preparation, handling and storage.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKER'S YARD.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all five cases licences were renewed to the 31st December, 1953.

None is in use at the present time except for the private slaughter of pigs.

38 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard.

The business was conducted in a satisfactory manner and records were kept as required by the Council's byelaws.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The whole of the meat sold in the district is drawn from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in Chesterfield where a thorough system of meat inspection is in operation.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS.

At the end of 1953, 15 persons held licences to slaughter animals, none of which was granted during the year.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amount of unsound food was found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Canned meats	..	..	..	..50 tins
Cooked ham and veal	..	..	..	..62 lbs. 12 ozs.
Potted meat	..	..	..	.. 4 lbs. 4 ozs.
Sausages	..	..	..	..45 lbs.
Canned fish	..	..	..	..70 tins.
vegetables	..	..	..	..74 tins.
fruit	..	..	..	153 tins.
tomatoes	..	..	..	393 tins.
milk	..	..	..	..24 tins.
Cake and flour confectionery	..	..	..	..34 lbs. 14 ozs.
Cereals	..	..	..	.. 5 packets.
Cheese	..	..	..	..2 lbs. 14 ozs.

All the above were voluntarily surrendered and were disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tips.

In March, 1953, the County Analyst reported that many cans of French Moroccan sardines in oil and tomato had been analysed and found to be contaminated with tin, in many instances the contamination being seriously in excess of the normally accepted limit of 2 grains per lb.

A search was made in all the food shops in the district and 460 cans were found and examined ; practically all appeared to be old stock, only 56 appearing to be in sound condition, the remaining 404 being "springers" or "swells." All were condemned, 320 in multiple shops from which they were returned to Headquarters for bulk condemnation and 140 being surrendered at the time of inspection.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

At the end of 1953 there were 16 dairy farmers in the district, 11 being wholesale producers and 5 retailing their product locally. Of the five farmers retailing milk, 2 produce Tuberculin Tested milk, 2 produce Accredited milk and the other sells non-designated milk.

Information was received during 1953 that from the 1st January, 1954, the sale of non-designated milk would be prohibited by virtue of the coming into operation of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953.

Only one farmer was affected and he made arrangements to dispose of his product to the local dairy company.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

The registrations and licences granted as at the 31st December, 1953, were as follows :—

Registered distributors of milk	..	..	13
Licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk			8
Licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	..		11
Licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	..	..	6

Supplementary licences to deal in Pasteurised milk and Tuberculin Tested milk were granted to a local Co-operative Society.

MILK SAMPLING.

The collection of samples of milk for biological examination continued to the end of the year, the supply from every farm, other than tuberculin tested milk producers, being examined quarterly.

47 samples were taken, 46 being reported satisfactory and in the remaining case the guinea pig died too soon for a definite result to be obtained.

During the last 5 years, 270 samples have been submitted for examination and in 4 cases evidence of tuberculosis organisms was found. There is no doubt that regular quarterly sampling of milk supplies has played a vital part in protecting the people, and especially the young children, from infection.

ICE CREAM.

There are three premises at which ice cream is manufactured and 23 premises from which ice cream is sold.

The improvement in recent years in the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream manufactured in this district continued throughout 1953, and for the second successive year every sample was reported as being in the satisfactory grades 1 and 2. This high standard must be zealously preserved.

The many modern detergents and sterilising agents now on the market greatly assist the ice cream producer in keeping his manufacturing plant in clean condition ; unsatisfactory results are an indication of lack of attention to cleanliness.

23 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	..	..	..	18
Grade 2	..	..	..	5
Grade 3	..	..	..	—
Grade 4	..	..	..	—

The results for individual manufacturers were as follows :

	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Total
	1	2	3	4	
Manufacturer A	4	1	—	—	5
Manufacturer B	8	4	—	—	12
Manufacturer C	6	—	—	—	6

SWIMMING BATHS.

12 samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths in Castle Lane, Bolsover, samples, being taken from the inlet and outlet ends.

In three of the samples submitted there was an indication of slight pollution of the bath water by Faecal B. Coli and the chlorine dosage was increased to overcome this contamination, later samples being satisfactory.

The bath is used most extensively in the daytime during the summer term by organised swimming parties from schools in Bolsover and the surrounding districts and at such times it is subjected to very heavy load. A report was submitted to the Council towards the end of the summer suggesting re-arrangement of the dressing accommodation and the provision of improved and compulsory precleansing facilities with a view to reducing the possible sources of pollution of the bath water. The Council agreed to this improvement being carried out and it is hoped that work will commence in the not too distant future.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

93 visits were paid to premises regarding closing hours, sanitary conveniences and the employment of young persons.

PETROLEUM LICENSING.

39 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

At the end of 1953, 24 licences were in force, involving a maximum storage capacity of 320,650 gallons.

RODENT CONTROL.

The systematic survey of the district which was commenced during 1952 was continued during 1953, and a further 936 houses, business premises and agricultural properties were inspected. A total of 159 infestations were treated, the majority being dealt with in 4 "block" control schemes.

Permanent Warfarin baiting points were established at refuse tips and sewage works which had previously been

pockets of infestation and this method of control proved highly successful.

Treatment of the public sewers was carried out on two occasions. In all cases methods of treatment were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and no legal proceedings were taken under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, of 1949.

MOOR LANE SEWER.

In his report for 1952 the Medical Officer of Health referred to the flooding with sewage of that portion of Moor Lane near the junction with Moorfield Avenue.

Early in 1953 arrangements were made with the Bacteriologist for examination for typhoid organisms of swabs suspended in the sewer at the point where overflow occurs. In all, eight swabs were examined and, fortunately, no typhoid organisms were isolated.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND PRIVIES.

During 1953, no conversions were carried out.

The majority of the houses in the district not served by a public sewer are isolated farms and cottages situated in rather inaccessible and scattered positions where it is not economically possible to provide sewerage. There is, however, one exception, this being a group of 30 houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, where it should be possible to provide modern sanitation at a fairly reasonable cost. This group of property was the subject of a report in 1952, the suggestions being accepted in principle by the Council, and the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a more detailed engineering report.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

During the year a complaint was received from an adjoining district concerning obnoxious fumes (stated to be a gas associated with the manufacture of pyridine) allegedly emanating from an industrial undertaking in this district. Several inspections were made of the works, in company with the Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works and certain improvements designed to secure condensation of vapours given off from a cooling tank were carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Labour and Transport.

10 men were employed on refuse collection and disposal, emptying pail closets, privies and cesspools and on collection and bailing of waste paper.

The vehicles used comprised :—

- 1 12 cubic yard Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter,
- 1 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam.
- 1 Fordson tractor fitted with earthmover blade for tip levelling and soil spreading.
- 3 inch mud pump for cesspool emptying.

The Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter was employed full time on refuse collection duties, the Karrier Bantam being employed part time on refuse collection and also undertaking emptying of pail closets, privies and cesspools.

During the year considerable difficulty was experienced in recruiting and retaining workmen of the right type,—several men leaving the service of the Council for more attractive employment in local industries, many of which afford opportunities for overtime and also grant allowance fuel. The rate of pay for public cleansing work was too low to be competitive in this district with the result that whenever a good workman left the employ of the authority it was virtually impossible to engage a comparable replacement and in the end the efficiency of the service thereby suffered. Bolsover is predominantly a coal mining area where the refuse yield is high and where it is essential to maintain a weekly collection.

A service of such vital importance to public health should be maintained at all times at a high level of efficiency and the Council considered a special report on this matter towards the end of the year. Initial steps were taken to seek permission for the payment of an excess rate for public cleansing duties, authority being obtained early in 1954, after the end of the period covered by this report.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping at the following tips :—

New Byron Brick Works, Limekiln Fields,
New Bolsover.

For most of the year the bulk of the refuse was disposed of at Limekiln Fields, extending a playing field which has been made by controlling tipping. The work has now been completed apart from final levelling and soil spreading and this operation should be completed fairly soon. Concentration of disposal is now taking place at New Bolsover for the purpose of extending the local N.C.B. sports ground.

SALVAGE.

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1954).

The waste paper market remained in a much healthier position throughout the period and no difficulty was experienced in disposing of total collections though the selling price was lower than for recent years and the profit margin was thereby reduced.

Efforts were made to increase collections to meet the growing demand of the Board Mills and total sales amounted to 107 tons 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.—easily a record achievement.

The waste paper undertaking made a profit of £231, slightly more than a 1d. rate.

The workmen's bonus scheme remained in operation throughout the year and a record payment of £142/18/3 was made to the men.

Segregation of tins was continued and the Council participated in the Derbyshire Scrap Drive held in May, 1953.

Sales from 1st April, 1953 to 31st March, 1954.

	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and Cardboard ..	107	12	3	—	816	16	4
Textiles ..	1	11	1	—	20	13	0
Scrap metals ..	6	3	—	—	25	3	0
Scrap tins ..	6	11	2	—	10	13	9
	121	18	2	—	£873	6	1

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